



October 2011



12th ANNUAL PUMPKIN WALK

at the Washington
Town Park Friday,
October 28th
6:30-10PM

Come join us as we celebrate the 12th Annual Pumpkin Walk! Trick or Treating will be from 6:30-7:30 for the kids. Walk around and see the amazing carved pumpkins by the family & friends of the Keators, enjoy some snacks, go for a hay ride and stay warm by the bonfire. This is always a great community event!

Monetary, candy and baby food jar donations will be accepted at the Washington Town Dump until Saturday, October 22nd.

Volunteers needed to help carve pumpkins, scoop out pumpkins, set up day of, etc.
Please contact Georgee at 623.0088

On November 12th Boy Scouts will be scouting for food. They will have tables at both the Washington and Becket Transfer Stations to collect nonperishable food items that will be donated to the Food Pantry.

Yoga at the Becket Washington School - Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9pm with certified instructor and area resident, Rima Sala.

Moderate level class using fluid breathing techniques. Gain strength and flexibility. \$10. Sponsored by the Becket Arts Center

Congratulations to Heather Anello on the purchase of the Becket General Store!
The change of owners occurred in the first half of September. Stop in to congratulate her and see the changes she's already made.

The 102nd Annual Sons & Daughters was held Sunday, September 11, 2011 at the Old Washington Town Hall. Approximately 45 people were in attendance for the event which included a moment of silence in remembrance of all those that lost their life 10 years earlier. The cake baking contest was enthusiastically judged by our local veterinarians, Sharon Lynch-Davis and Fred Davis. The cakes entered in the contest were Sharon's two favorite...chocolate and carrot, with the winning carrot cake being submitted by Ms. Pat Gallant.

The Sons & Daughters committee was without their President, Rudy Sacco, as he was traveling. After a few stumbles - almost skipping the pledge of allegiance, forgotten reading glasses, forgotten guest book - the Committee managed to get through the meeting portion while providing a few laughs for the audience. The topic of the railroad provided much of the discussion. And the Historical Commission had artifacts from and articles about the railroad on display.

Bobby Sweet played two wonderful songs in the town hall and then the meeting was adjourned.

During the meeting the children were entertained with hula-hoops, bubbles, coloring and crafts on the lawn provided by the Committee.

A potluck lunch with dishes provided by the attendees and supplemented by meat platters and munchies from the Committee was enjoyed by all while Bobby and Abe Guthrie entertained the crowd on the front lawn. The forecasted 20% chance of showers found their way to Washington, but did not end the festivities. The music and some of the crowd moved back inside and others socialized outside under the tent. A good time was had by all!

The Committee would like to thank everyone who made the day such a success...Bobby Sweet and Abe Guthrie for the great music, Craig Willis and White Wolf for providing temporary outdoor facilities, Will and Michele Beemer and Heartwood school for making a beautiful donation box, Jane Pytko for helping us clean up and all those who came out for this annual event. We hope to see everyone - and more - again next year.

Sincerely,
Allison Mikaniewicz
Sons & Daughters Committee Secretary

The Sons & Daughters Committee:
Rudolph Sacco - President
Richard Grillon - Vice President
Carol Kennedy - Treasurer
Allison Mikaniewicz - Secretary

HAVE WATER WELLS AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS CHECKED FOR SAFETY

WESTFIELD, Mass. – Homeowners in Berkshire and Franklin counties may be eligible for disaster aid to help repair flood-damaged wells and septic systems, state and federal officials said.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants can help pay to pump septic tanks, perform required repairs or replace the system as needed. Damaged private wells that are the sole source of water for the home also may be repaired or decontaminated.

"We don't want anyone living in a house with contaminated water or raw sewage," said Federal Coordinating Officer James N. Russo.

If a homeowner is already registered and did not inform the FEMA inspector that they had a private well, or that their septic system was flooded, they may call FEMA's toll-free number, from

7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, at **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. The number for those with a hearing or speech disability is **(TTY) 1-800-462-7585**. Select the help line when prompted.

Individuals also may report this information online at www.disasterassistance.gov or using a smartphone at m.fema.gov.

A few updates:

- Anyone who experienced a loss from Hurricane Irene can apply to FEMA; likewise the Town has applied for about \$30,000 for our costs from the storm. Residents can go to <http://www.fema.gov/assistance/index.shtm> or phone 800-621-3362.
- The new boiler and hot water heater in the Town Hall are fully operational. The condition of the catwalk in the utility room raised some safety concerns and we plan to add railings to the landing and stair.
- We still have not gotten a yes or no from the MA Department of Energy (DOER) on whether we will be able to use the remaining EECB Grant funds for new energy efficient doors and windows at the Town Hall.
- We are applying for FEMA grant to upgrade the bridges and dam on Depot Brook (Eden Glen).
- The Ad Hoc Committee should have a better idea by the end of next month about needed improvements to the Town Hall. Any ideas or concerns you may have can be directed to Committee Chair Shaun Lennon or committeewoman Jodi Hostetter.
- The RFP for the re-use of the former Mapleview Nursing Home has generated some interest with several prospective bidders attending the walk-through on Saturday 9/17. A number of bid packages have been requested.
- We appear to have finally gotten CSX's attention to the flooding on Upper Valley Road. We expect to have either a permanent solution or a lawsuit this coming month.

September brought us two events that make us proud to be Washington residents for the spirit of community, charity and volunteerism represented:

- The Sons & Daughters Reunion on September 11 is a celebration of our Town's past and it was gratifying to see such a great crowd despite the inclement weather. Good food and good music, friends and neighbors – what could be better?
- The Hilltown Hoot on September 18 brought out an enthusiastic crowd to hear great music and see some interesting vendors. All the proceeds support our schools. Special thanks to the Guthrie family and please, yes, more than one event per year would be wonderful!

Don't forget another one of Washington's signature events – the Pumpkin Walk on Saturday October 29! Donations can be made at the Transfer Station, and, as always, volunteers welcome.

It was with great regret that the Board learned that the Reverend Lyle Larson plans to move from Town for health reasons. The Reverend has been a regular attendee at Select Board meetings for many years and we have come to think of him as the conscience of the Town for his guidance. He will be missed and we wish him well.

Jim Huebner,
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board



We had a wonderful turnout for the 5th Annual Hilltown Hoot on September 18th. Over 600 people attended raising almost \$6000.00 for the schools of Central Berkshire. Thanks to everyone who came out for a great cause! ☐



The Historical Committee would like to welcome Jan Nelson as a member. We would also like to thank her for her help with Ralph Simmons at the Sons and Daughters celebration in the Historical Room at the Old Town Hall.

Welcome Jan!

Washington Tracks

8 Summit Hill Rd.



Town Hall

Washington, MA 01223

Support Our Local Businesses

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30 Washington Street
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Heather Anello, NEW OWNER
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By appointment only

Please send your Tracks info by 28th of the month to:

mrsabeski@mac.com or if you do not have email, call Lisa at 623.5088